

cannot fail to recognize his dynamic personality in the pages of this book, urging patients to take an active attitude to recovery, rather than passively submitting to their disabilities.

Principles for First Aid for the Injured. H. PROCTOR and P. S. LONDON. Butterworths: London, pp. 234, Price 35s.

This book is a splendid step forward in the exposition of the principles of initial treatment for casualties, and there is so much of value in it that it seems unjust to offer any criticisms. The surgical principles of wound management are particularly well explained, and there is an excellent summary of the difficult problem of shock, which makes it sound much less difficult.

The statement on page 150, that drinks are permissible for burned patients, should have been qualified at once. It is made clear in a sentence on page 151 and another on page 227, that drinks are only advisable if the patient is far away from hospital—if he can be quickly admitted, “giving anything to drink is a crime”.

The reader with anaesthetic experience will be disappointed that more is not said about the use of chloroform, with particular respect to its convenience and its grave dangers. The serious hazard of anaesthesia to shocked, or potentially shocked patients, is insufficiently stressed. Perhaps in the next edition an anaesthetist might be asked to contribute a short section.

But lest these comments have left the wrong impression, it is a book which every doctor interested in first aid (and who should not be) should study.

The Young Man's Guide to Medicine. ERIC J. TRIMMER, M.B., B.S. Lond.: Hamish Hamilton. 1962. Pp. v + 192. Price 15s.

This is another book in the series “The Young Man's Guide” and it describes the many aspects of a career in medicine. The book is divided into three sections, the first being a short history of medicine, the second an account of how to qualify as a doctor, and the third tells of the many branches of the profession open to the young doctor.

The first section, on the history of medicine deals very briefly with the subject and covers the period from pre-Hippocratic times until the late 19th century. It sketches the development of medicine from a primitive art, closely interwoven with the supernatural, to the beginnings of the scientific medicine of today. As the author develops his story, he introduces the great pioneers of medicine,

giving a short biography of each. While telling of Robert Koch, the author states p. 57, line 18, "Koch discovered the virus of cholera" this must be a slip of the pen, the causative organism of cholera being a vibrio.

The second section deals with the actual process of "Getting Qualified". It is preceded by an introduction giving a short history of the *Medical Register*, and of the General Medical Council. The author takes as his example of a qualification the London M.B., B.S. and describes in some detail the requirements for acceptance by a medical school, both scholastic and personal. He then goes through the medical school course step by step, describing the activities of the student at each stage, right up until the day when he completes the final examination. The last chapter in this section is entitled "Hard work and no play?" This tells of all the other time-consuming activities such as the students' union, and the sports field, that form part of the medical student's life, and which play an important part in the education of a doctor.

The third and final section tells of the many careers available to the newly qualified doctor. Each speciality is dealt with in turn, and a brief history of the more recent developments in each is given. This section lists higher degrees and diplomas, and describes briefly how each may be obtained.

This is a book written for young people and although the language is kept simple, the author's style with its many short sentences makes it difficult to read. The book deals comprehensively with its subject, and presents medicine as a job performed by quite ordinary people. It might be added that although the book is entitled a *Young Man's Guide*, it applies equally well to the young woman.

Genetics of Micro-Organisms. *British Medical Bulletin*, Vol. 18, No. 1, London. The British Council. 1962. Pp. i + 88. Price 20s.

This number is every bit as good as we have come to expect from the *British Medical Bulletin*. The subject is introduced by Sir Macfarlane Burnet and then chapter after chapter follows, written by an accepted expert on a bewildering array of subjects ranging from Ribonucleic acid and Bacterial Genetics, through Lysogeny and Sex Factors as Episomes, to Colicinogeny and Recombination.

Not ordinary reading for general practitioners, it must be agreed, but the brave will be more than rewarded. Here are 18 chapters